

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10298-10254

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 2-1693-17

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 53074 Date:
05-25-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : BAUMGARDNER, F. J.
TO : SULLIVAN, W. C.

TITLE :

DATE : 06/28/1961
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS :

INTERPEN, GPH, AKA, ASSOC, TRAINING, TRA, ACA,
FINANCIAL, AFFIL

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/05/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : INC NEWS RELEASE

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
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Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: ANTICOMMUNIST LEGIONNAIRES
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

DATE: June 28, 1961

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IN THIS DOCUMENT. KP 10-16-97

SLD/KSR

11-4-97

(JFK)

The Washington Capital News Service, 6-27-61, indicated that Jerry Patrick, head of the Intercontinental Penetration Force allegedly associated with the Junta Revolucionaria de Liberacion Nacional, had been practicing parachute jumping with members of his organization. The Director inquired: "What do we know of this?"

We are well aware of the recent activities of Patrick. His true name is Gerald Patrick Hemming; however, he has used the last names of Patrick, Henning and Hannon. He is originally from California but arrived in the Miami area in early May, 1961. He became the leader of a small group of men attracted to that area by newspaper publicity on the Cuban situation. The group became known as the Anticommunist Legionnaires. The members were reportedly living in the Everglades on snakes and swamp cabbage and had no housing. Miami has an informant in the organization who is an aide to Hemming (Patrick) who has reported that the group has only 15 to 20 members who are described as mercenaries, vagrants, adventurers and unreliable delinquents with an average age of about 22 years. No training camp is maintained but, periodically, the group goes into the Everglades for training purposes to impress Cuban and Venezuelan groups hoping to get money donations. Hemming has reportedly visited most of the Cuban revolutionary organizations seeking donations and offering his services but has been refused. The group seeks publicity; has no arms, equipment or transportation; is not accepted in the Cuban revolutionary movement; and the informant does not anticipate any expeditions by the group.

According to the news release, Hemming claims his group is associated with the Junta Revolucionaria de Liberacion Nacional. We have no information indicating any such affiliation. This latter organization is an anti-Castro group headed by Aureliano Sanchez Arango and was reportedly created in March, 1961, following a meeting of 117 Cuban organizations. We are following the activities of the Junta from an intelligence standpoint and on 4-25-61 we also requested the Department to advise if its activities indicated a violation of neutrality statutes warranting investigation. The Department advised 5-15-61 it was soliciting views of CIA concerning the group. No additional reply has been received from the Department.

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Simpson

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ON 5/4/94

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9303 RELEASED 5/24/2002 10:20:50 AM